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Human Rights Council
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Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council

28/15. The right to work

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other international human rights instruments relevant to the right to work,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/2 of 17 July 2007, on the role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all, and 2008/18 of 24 July 2008, on promoting full employment and decent work for all,

Taking note of the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-sixth session, on 18 June 1998, the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, adopted by the Conference at its ninety-seventh session, on 10 June 2008, the Global Jobs Pact, adopted by the Conference at its ninety-eighth session, on 19 June 2009, and the resolution of the International Labour Organization on the follow-up to its Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, adopted by the Conference at its ninety-ninth session, on 15 June 2010,

Recognizing the primary role, mandate, expertise and specialization of the International Labour Organization within the United Nations system in relation to the promotion of decent work and full and productive employment for all,

Reaffirming that all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Emphasizing that States should undertake to guarantee that the right to work is to be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Underscoring the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to work, and recognizing that women are on many occasions subject to discrimination in the context of realizing their rights in that regard on an equal basis with men,

Recognizing that progress has been made, yet deeply concerned that many persons with disabilities in all regions continue to face significant obstacles in exercising their right to work on an equal basis with others,

Reaffirming, as enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his or her living by work which he or she freely chooses or accepts, and that States should take steps to achieve the full realization of that right, including technical and vocational guidance and training programmes, policies and techniques, to achieve steady economic, social and cultural development and full and productive employment under conditions that safeguard the fundamental political and economic freedoms of the individual,

Reaffirming also, as enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work,

Reaffirming further that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of all human rights and to endeavour to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of their available resources, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to work, including in particular the adoption of legislative measures,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular target 1 (b) of the Goals, to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people,

Recognizing that full and productive employment and decent work for all are key elements of poverty-reduction strategies that facilitate the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and that they require a multidimensional focus that incorporates Governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, representatives of employers and workers, international organizations and, in particular, the agencies of the United Nations system and international financial institutions,

Encouraging States to pay due consideration to the right to work and the issue of full and productive employment and decent work for all in the ongoing negotiations on the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and welcoming the inclusion of the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all as a proposed stand-alone goal in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,[1]

Concerned that global unemployment stood at 201.3 million in 2014, representing an increase of 1.2 million compared with the previous year and of about 31 million

[1] A/68/970

compared with 2007, and highlighting the severe impact that the international economic and financial crisis has had in that regard,

Expressing deep concern that approximately 74.5 million young people are unemployed and that the global youth unemployment rate is around 13.1 per cent, and resolved in that regard to pay particular attention to the realization of the right to work for young people, bearing in mind the fundamental importance of equal opportunities, education and vocational training in the context of realizing the right to work for young people,

Underscoring that there is an urgent need to create at the national and international levels an environment that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development, and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and reaffirming that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization,

Recognizing that employment should be a central objective of economic and social policies at the national, regional and international levels for the sustainable eradication of poverty and for providing an adequate standard of living, and emphasizing in that regard the importance of relevant social protection measures, including social protection floors,

Encouraging the private sector to continue to exercise its vital role in generating new investments, job opportunities and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards the full realization of the right to work and the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Acknowledging the work of the treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in relation to the right to work,

Acknowledging also the work of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, in particular the International Labour Organization, in supporting the efforts of States to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and the full realization of the right to work,

1. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report in consultation with States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, particularly the International Labour Organization, as well as the treaty bodies, special procedures, civil society and other relevant stakeholders on the realization of the right to work, in accordance with their respective obligations under international human rights law and the relevant major challenges and best practices in that regard, and to submit the report to the Human Rights Council prior to its thirty-first session;

2. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

56th meeting
26 March 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]